

REMARKS

The present amendment is prepared in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. A complete listing of all the claims in the application is shown above showing the status of each claim. For current amendments, inserted material is underlined and deleted material has a line therethrough.

Applicants appreciate the thoroughness with which the Examiner has examined the above-identified application. Reconsideration is requested in view of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Claim 2 has been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations as recited in now canceled claim 2.

No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9-20

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 9-20.

Claims 1, 3-8

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

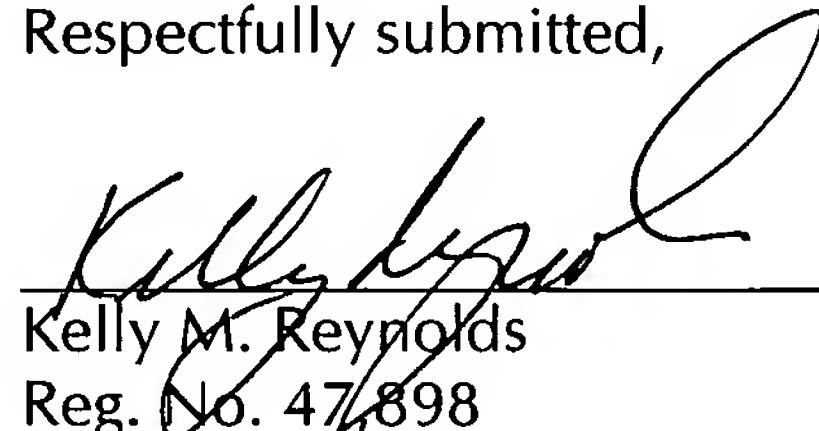
Accordingly, applicants have canceled dependent claim 2 and included the limitations thereof into independent base claim 1. It is now submitted that amended

independent claim 1 is in a condition for allowance. As claim 1 is in a condition for allowance, applicants also submit that claims 3-8, dependent thereon are also in a condition for allowance.

No new matter has been added.

It is respectfully submitted that the application has now been brought into a condition where allowance of the case is proper. Reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner not find the claims to be allowable, Applicants' attorney respectfully requests that the Examiner call the undersigned to clarify any issue and/or to place the case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Name: Carol M. Thomas Date: May 27, 2004 Signature: Carol Thomas
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